

REMARKS

In the Office Action identified above, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,148) in view of Whiting (U.S. Patent No. 2,477,533); objected to claims 3-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and allowed claims 9-22.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-22. Applicants believe that claims 1 and 2 also recite allowable subject matter and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application. However, to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of objected to claim 3. Applicants have also canceled claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject of record and have amended claims 4-6 to depend from claim 1. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 18, 21, and 22 to correct typographical errors and improve readability.

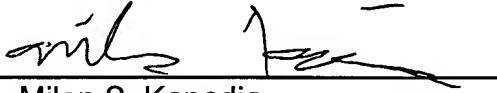
Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending claims 1, 2 and 4-22 are in condition for allowance. A timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 12, 2005

By: 
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